

# **Guidelines for the MPA Brainstorming Activity**

**October 5-6, 2005 CCRSG Meeting**

*[Note: These guidelines are consistent with the ground rules adopted by the CCRSG]*

## Guidelines for the Development of Candidate MPA Concepts

- During the next two meetings of the Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (CCRSG) teams of stakeholders will be collaborating to develop candidate concept MPAs. Individual stakeholders may also be creating candidate concepts MPAs outside the CCRSG and bringing those concepts into the meetings.
- The purpose of this effort is to create a fair, safe and well-structured environment for CCRSG members to apply their knowledge and expertise to develop and evaluate MPA concepts. All candidate concept MPAs are “works-in-progress” and may change in the weeks ahead before alternative MPA networks are configured and considered by the CCRSG.
- This brainstorming work is conceptual and should not be represented outside the CCRSG as a proposal. In order to allow all CCRSG members to be creative and work openly, we ask that this guidance be respected. CCRSG members recognize it would be detrimental to the integrity of this process if any conceptual work were depicted as a formal proposal from the CCRSG, MLPA Initiative staff, or DFG proposal.
- Evaluation of existing MPAs and suggestions of candidate MPA concepts will be done in the spirit of respectful interaction and collaborative problem solving and with the goal of satisfying multiple interests.
- CCRSG members are first entitled to put forward candidate MPA concepts without interruption or critique in the spirit of “inventing without committing.” Then, at designated times in the meeting, CCRSG member will be invited to offer constructive critiques targeted toward improving candidate MPA concepts.
- The participants in the work group activities for modules 2 and 3 will be the primary CCRSG members. If the primaries are not present, their alternates will take part. Alternates may observe the work group activities and are encouraged to communicate their views and ideas through their primaries (primaries and alternates may caucus at breaks as needed).
- During the work group activity (module 3), efforts will be made to discuss as many candidate MPA concepts as possible. Each work group member will be responsible for contributing at least one candidate MPA concept (individually or with a group). Time permitting, work group members will be able to present more than one initial MPA concept.
- CCRSG members may submit new or refined candidate MPA concepts not discussed in the October CCRSG meeting to staff by October 15, 2005 for inclusion in the inventory.

Guidelines for the Use of the CCRSG Decision-Support Tool

- All CCRSG members and alternates will be provided with password-protected accounts to the decision-support tool. Password-protected accounts have two purposes: 1) to protect your own work while it is still in the early development stage, and 2) to manage the load on the site.
- Initiative staff will create a standard naming convention for candidate MPA concepts to facilitate the organization, review, and refinement of MPA concepts. MPA concepts developed at the October CCRSG meeting will be available to all account holders.

Guidelines for videotaping of MPA concept brainstorming activities

- Videographers are requested to direct videotaping mainly to the plenary sessions. During the breakout sessions (modules 2 and 3), videotaping will show a sense of participant discussions.